

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1.(Original) Method for the preparation of a biological fertilizer comprising subjecting whey to a first fermentation step and the addition of a carrier material to the fermented whey.
- 2.(Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the ratio fermented whey: carrier material is between 10 and 15.
- 3.(Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, prior to and/or during the first fermentation of the whey, the inoculation of the whey with a culture of microorganisms.
- 4.(Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the first fermentation is performed a pH between 5 and 7, preferably at a pH between 4 and 4.5.
- 5.(Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, prior to the addition of the carrier material, filtration of the fermented whey.
- 6.(Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, after the addition of the carrier material, a second fermentation of step.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the addition of lime.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is a gum resin-poor carrier material.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is a cellulose-rich carrier material.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group consisting of saw dust, beech saw dust, oak saw dust, dried nettle, and combinations thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the addition of trace elements, nutrients, minerals, growth hormones, stabilizers, organic compounds, and/or antibiotics.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1 wherein the biological fertilizer is in a form selected from the group consisting of a powder, granules, a suspension, a dispersion, fibrous matter, a solution, a mixture, and combinations thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) Biological fertilizer obtainable by a method according to claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) Fermented whey for the preparation of a biological fertilizer according to claim 13.

15. (Original) Composition for biologically fertilizing soil comprising a biological fertilizer according to claim 13.

16. (Currently Amended) Use of a biological fertilizer according to claim 13 ~~or a composition~~ for fertilization of a substrate for plant growth.

17. (Original) Use according to claim 16, wherein the substrate for plant growth is chosen from the group consisting of soil, vermiculite, glass fibers, rockwool, and aquaculture.

18. (Currently Amended) Use of a biological fertilizer according to claim 13, ~~or a composition~~ for improvement of soil composition and/or soil structure.

19. (Currently Amended) Method for fertilizing soil comprising: application of a biological fertilizer according to claim 13, ~~or a composition~~ onto and/or into soil.

20. (New) Use of a composition according to claim 15 for fertilization of a substrate for plant growth.

21. (New) Use of a composition according to claim 15 for improvement of soil composition and/or soil structure.

22. (New) Method for fertilizing soil comprising: application of a composition according to claim 15 onto and/or into soil.